



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

LM11/0526

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/934,457	09/19/97	037	DIXON, T	2761 08/26/99
First Named Applicant	ABELOW, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION CUSTOMER-BASED PRODUCT DESIGN MODULE

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2	03058/004001	705-001.000	T62 UTILITY	YES	\$605.00	08/26/99

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.
Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
08/934,457

Applicant(s)

Abelow

Examiner

Thomas Dixon

Group Art Unit

2761



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/19/1999

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5, 7, 8, 14, 16-36, 38-42, 48, and 49

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 7

☒ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on Mar 19, 1999, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ ~~Examiner's Amendment/Comment~~ 5/24/99

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

STEPHEN R. TKACS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a summary of the current status of the claims in the instant case:

Claims 2-5, 7,8,14, 16-36,38-42,48,49,52,53 are pending. Claims 1,6,9-13,15,37,43-47,50,51 have been cancelled.

Drawings

The objections to the drawings are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

It is noted that paragraph 5 a) of the previous office action noted numerous typographical error, such as the failure of the applicant to end each sentence with a period followed by one or more spaces. Applicant has corrected the specific instances noted in the action, but numerous other instances remain. Applicant is advised to review and modify any further instances of these errors in the specification..

Appropriate correction is required.

The remaining objections to the specification are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The rejections of the claims of the previous office action are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The rejections of the claims of the previous office action are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

Response to Amendment

The arguments are considered moot in view of applicant's amendment of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-5, 7,8,14, 16-36,38-42,48,49,52,53 are allowable..
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As per Claim 48:

The prior art of record taken either individually or in combination fails to disclose or teach:

A system for use with units of a computer product that are in use respectively by different users, comprising:

a user interface which is part of each of the units of the computer product and provides a medium for two-way local interaction between the user and the unit of the product,

interaction scripts that mediate two way interaction between each of the users and the corresponding unit of the product via the user interface, each of the interaction scripts causing information and questions about use of the unit of the product to be conveyed to the user from the unit of the product and enabling information and questions about use of the unit of the product to be conveyed from the user to the product, different ones of the interaction scripts being suitable for users who are at different levels of experience of functionality in using the product,

in combination with all the limitations of Claim 48.

As per Claims 2-5, 7,8,14, 16-22,49, which depend from 48 are allowable for the same reasons.

As per Claim 23.

The prior art of record taken either individually or in combination fails to disclose or teach:

A method for aiding design of a product comprising:

including with the first version an interactive user feedback element that permits two-way communication between a user of the product and a designer of the product which accumulates information on use of the product by a user, the user feedback element including a user control for selectively enabling or disabling the user feedback element,
in combination with all the limitations of Claim 23.

As per Claims 24-36,38-42, which depend from Claim 23, are allowable for the same reasons.

As per Claim 52:

The prior art of record taken either individually or in combination fails to disclose or teach:

A system for use with units of a computer product that are in use respectively by different users, the system comprising:

a user interface which is part of each of the units of the computer product and provides a medium for two-way local interaction between the user and the unit of the product, the user

interface including a user control for selectively enabling or disabling the user interface,,
in combination with all the limitations of Claim 52.

As per Claim 53:

The prior art of record taken either individually or in combination fails to disclose or
teach:

A system for managing information about a value to users of units of a computer product
that are in use by the users, the system comprising:

in each of the units of the computer product, a user interface which provides a medium
for two-way local interaction between the user and the unit of the product,

interaction scripts that mediate two-way interaction between each of the users and the
corresponding unit of the product via the user interface, each of the interaction scripts carrying
information about the value to users of the product,

in combination with all the limitations of Claim 53.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner
should be directed to Thomas Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner
can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7am to 3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Todd Voeltz, can be reached on (703) 305-9714. The Official fax phone number for
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9051; the

Unofficial fax phone number is (703) 305-0040. Please notify the examiner above when faxing either Official or Unofficial documents, as these are community fax machines.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

TAD



May 18, 1999